

**MINUTES – REMOTE REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN OF BARNET, VERMONT
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021**

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference. There was no physical meeting place for this meeting. This meeting was audio recorded via GoToMeeting.

Board members participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference: Dylan Ford, Benjamin Gates (presiding co-chair), and Mark Jefferson.

Other Town officials and employees participating via GoToMeeting telephone/video conference: Road Foreman Mark Chase and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Members of the public participating via GoToMeeting telephone or video conference: Michael Bigelow, Daniel Deatruck, Mona Marceau, and Kathleen Monroe.

1. Consideration of approval of minutes of regular meeting held December 28, 2020

- Ms. Ford moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting held December 28, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

2. Consideration of, and take any action on, correspondence from the McIndoe Falls Academy regarding request for letter of support for summer/winter market

Mr. Gates read an email from Wally Thrall, President of the Board of Trustees, which indicates that the Trustees, “are in the process of developing a summer/winter market at the McIndoe Falls Academy, and part of that process is applying for a Better Places Grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont.” The Academy is seeking a letter of support from the Selectboard stating that it supports the establishment of an ongoing market at the Academy. Discussion ensued.

- Ms. Ford moved to sign a letter of support for the establishment of an ongoing market at the McIndoe Falls Academy. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

3. Other business presented by members of the public

There was no other business presented by members of the public.

4. Appearance by Road Foreman Mark Chase regarding Highway Department matters; take any action

a. Consideration of, and take any action on, speed limit zone and traffic study for West Barnet Road in the proximity of Kid Row

Ms. Ford reported that there have been no developments regarding this matter; the Board continues to await the submission of a speed study by Constable David Stevenson.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, 2021 Certificate of Highway Mileage

The Board reviewed a 2021 certificate of highway mileage, which indicates all mileages as unchanged from 2020, at 0.00 miles of Class 1, 23.51 miles of Class 2, 58.46 miles of Class 3, 21.19 miles of state highway, 0.00 miles of Class 1 lane, 10.95 miles of Class 4, and 0.09 miles of legal trail.

- The Board agreed to sign the certificate.

c. Other business

i. Equipment maintenance

Mr. Chase reported that winter precipitation has been comparatively light in recent weeks, allowing the Highway Department to spend good deal of time in the shop maintaining and repairing equipment.

ii. Road sign vandalism

Mr. Chase reported that the problems with road signs continue, recently shifting from theft to vandalism; several signs have been painted.

5. Other business presented by other town officers

a. Consent of Candidate forms due January 25

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt announced that, because the 2021 annual town meeting will be by Australian ballot, there will be no nominations from the floor for candidates for local office. To have their names printed on the ballot, candidates must submit a Consent of Candidate form to the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 25, 2021.

6. Consideration of, and take any action on, adoption of amended Purchasing Policy

The Board reviewed the revised Purchasing Policy, as amended per the Board's discussion at their previous meeting.

- Ms. Ford moved to adopt the Purchasing Policy as amended. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

7. Consideration of, and take any action on, Town Hall property boundary agreement negotiations

Ms. Ford spoke about her conversations with Town Attorney Steven Adler, as discussed by the Board at its previous meeting. Ms. Ford indicated that Mr. Adler suggested that the Board leave the remainder of the negotiations to Mr. Adler, the attorney for the abutters, and surveyor Andrew Dussault, with Mr. Adler acting on the Board's behalf. Discussion ensued.

- The Board agreed to engage Mr. Adler to negotiate on the Board's behalf in discussions with the attorney of the Town Hall abutters and surveyor Andrew Dussault.

8. Consideration of, and take any action on, planning for 2021 Town Meeting

The Board agreed to table discussion of this matter.

9. Consideration of, and take any action on, proposed 2021 budget

The Board continued its review of the 2021 budget, revisiting and amending several revenue and expenditure line-items.

10. Other business presented by Selectboard

a. Town report reports

Ms. Ford briefly discussed the drafting of the Selectboard Report and the Memorial Day Report for the 2020 Town Report.

11. Consideration of, and take any action on, performance evaluations and wage rate adjustments for Highway Department employees (executive session anticipated pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

Mr. Jefferson moved to enter executive session to discuss performance evaluations and wage rate adjustments for Highway Department employees pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Entered executive session at 7:40 p.m. Those present in executive session: Ms. Ford, Mr. Gates, Mr. Jefferson, Road Foreman Mark Chase, and Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt.

Ms. Ford moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited executive session at 7:56 p.m.

- Ms. Ford moved to ratify the discussion held in executive session regarding performance evaluations and wage rate adjustments for Highway Department employees. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ford and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

A true copy.

Attest: _____ *Town Clerk*